

# Climate Action Engagement Fund

## Funding Fairer Futures – Call for Proposals - 2026(1)- Cycle II

### Introduction

Funding Fairer Futures is an initiative supporting the climate movement to become more inclusive, representative, and community-led. The project is led by CAN Europe together with WECF, CBM Ireland, CAN International, Ecolise and Generation Climate Europe. It is co-funded by the European Commission under the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) Programme.

The Climate Action Engagement Fund is led by CAN Europe. This call for proposals is one among 5 launched by the different partners of the project. In order to find information about the other funding opportunities, you can visit:

#### [Feminist Climate Action Fund](#) - WECF

*For feminist informal action groups and civil society organisations in Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain and Sweden to advance inclusive climate action.*

#### [Youth Climate Changemakers Fund](#) - Generation Climate Europe

*For youth-led organisations in the European Union in implementing inclusive climate justice activities.*

#### [Global Connections for Climate Justice Fund](#) - CBM Ireland

*For Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, and in selected Asian, African and Pacific Islands in implementing disability inclusive climate activities.*

#### [Regenerative Communities Fund](#) - Ecolise

*For community-led initiatives working on climate action, regeneration, or just transition, in Croatia, Finland, France, Portugal and Spain.*

### Objectives

**We want to mobilise people in Europe to act for and drive political and systemic change towards climate justice and just transition.**



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The Climate Action Engagement Fund will provide financial support to CSOs/groups promoting **just transition and climate justice** in the European Union, via awareness-raising, campaigning, mobilisation, public engagement and advocacy activities.

We will fund proposals addressing at least one of the following:

- **Raising awareness, critical understanding, and public engagement** about climate justice and just transition
- **Mobilising people in Europe to act** for climate justice and just transition (e.g. street mobilisation, digital campaigns, petitions, other events...)
- **Engaging with decision-makers** in order to drive change (e.g. letter-writing, media outreach, public hearings, campaigns...)

## Priorities

**You are welcome to apply under any of our 3 priorities:**

<b>Cross-cutting:</b> any focus in line with our cross-cutting priorities	
<b>Priority #1</b> Just Transition, with a focus on Housing & Energy	<b>Priority #2</b> A European Budget for a Socially Just Green Transition

## Cross-cutting priorities:

We are looking for project proposals that contribute to a Just Transition, which we understand as a *comprehensive, systemic shift toward a more equitable and sustainable society that tackles the root causes of injustice within economic, political, and social structures.*

We are interested in supporting project proposals:

- Promoting intersectional, gender transformative and/or disability-inclusive approaches to climate justice and just transition;
- Connecting climate and social justice: building trust, connections and joint work to advance Just Transition among the climate justice movement and with organisations beyond it which will be key allies for a just transition (e.g. social justice organisations, trade unions, housing right collectives...);
- Reaching beyond the climate bubble and proposing creative and realistic ways of doing so;
- Fostering stronger solidarity between people from the Global North and Global South;
- Protecting civic space.

### **Priority #1: Just transition, with a focus on housing & energy**

Outdated heating systems, poorly insulated homes and rising energy prices and rents leave people vulnerable—not just to the climate crisis, but to deepening inequality and exclusion. Yet our homes and buildings are among the largest contributors to the climate crisis, accounting for 36% of the GHG emissions in the EU alone.

Ensuring a Just Transition for Housing & Energy offers a unique opportunity to improve the health and well-being of millions of people and households across Europe. Among others, providing decent and energy efficient homes can considerably reduce our energy consumption, as well as cut energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions: this represents a major opportunity to address a deep social justice issue.

We are looking to support small-medium CSOs and grassroots that promote a fair and just transition for housing and energy - helping to strengthen the link between climate, social and housing justice.

We want to ensure that underrepresented voices are not only included but are active in shaping the conversation, to build a transition that works for the many, not the few.

We encourage applicants to dedicate capacity and take part in various campaigning and mobilisation moments on energy and housing in coordination with Funding Fairer Futures, strengthening and amplifying existing campaigns that unite climate and housing organisations at EU, national or even local level, including the [Build Better Lives](#) Campaign.

We will favour projects also in line with our cross-cutting priorities mentioned above.

### **Priority #2: A European Budget for a Socially Just Green Transition**

The long-term European Budget (Multiannual Financial Framework), negotiated upon 7-year cycles, is a crucial enabler of a Socially Just Green Transition in Europe. In certain Member States, MFF funds are of crucial importance for spending in a socially just transition, as they represent more than 50% public investment. Yet, citizens across the EU are often unaware of the importance of the next MFF (2028-34) negotiations for the green and social economies, and public debate on the European Commission's proposal, or governments' positions, is scant within Member States.

We strive for a next EU budget that contributes to meeting ambitious climate and nature targets in tandem with social justice, through meaningful mainstreaming targets and earmarking for climate and nature, that avoids undermining climate and nature and excludes fossil fuel finance, and

supports a socially just transition.

We are looking to fund a few project proposals that contribute to:

- Making the negotiations around the next EU budget more visible and understandable to European citizens across and EU and/or individual Member States;
- Engaging citizens to raise their voice on what matters to them; and/or
- Creating a public debate around the EU budget at EU level and/or within individual Member States.
- Showcasing the contribution of the current EU budget to citizen-led projects and initiatives in the green and social economies, to draw lessons for the next EU budget negotiations

We particularly support initiatives in countries where such a debate is lacking and where there is room to increase environmental ambition related to the next EU budget negotiations.

We will favour projects also in line with our cross-cutting priorities mentioned above.

### Promoting equitable access to funding

We aim to **support small to medium** CSOs/groups. This includes those that usually work with small budgets, have small teams, or find it hard to get grants or core funding. We do not apply a fixed definition to 'small' or 'medium', as contexts and organisational structures vary. When reviewing applications, we will consider the overall size and the financial situation of each applicant. Our intention is to prioritise organisations that are less securely funded and for whom this support would make a significant difference to their work.

Additionally, we will favour CSOs/groups led by women/non-binary, youth, frontline communities, people with disability or people with a marginalised background or identity.

### Project Scope and Requirements

We offer two types of funding. **Please review the below table carefully** to determine which category best aligns with your project's needs and objectives.

	Category 1	Category 2
<b>Total funding available</b>	€ 600,000	€ 150,000
<b>Estimated number of projects to be supported</b>	Around 10 projects (average = € 60,000)	Around 11 projects
<b>Funding limit (Maximum total project budget)</b>	Up to € 100,000 (this includes both the amount	Up to € 10,000

	<i>requested and any co-financing you provide)</i>	
<b>Co-financing</b>	Encouraged but not required	Not required
<b>Reporting Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Narrative Report on activities and results</li> <li>- Detailed Financial Report with supporting documents</li> </ul>	- Narrative Report on activities and results
<b>Project Duration</b>	Minimum 6 months, ending no later than October 2027. Projects can start as of 1st April 2026.	

**Number of projects to be supported:** While we aim to support the number of projects listed above, the final number may vary depending on the quality of the proposals and available budget. The Selection Committee reserves the right to not allocate all the available funds if the quality of applications does not meet the required standards. In that case, the remaining funds will be carried over to the next funding cycle.

**Funding Limits:** For Category 1 projects, the total budget for your project (the amount you request from us + any co-financing you provide) cannot be more than € 100,000. For example, if you include the suggested co-financing of 10% (€ 10,000) to a € 100,000 budget, the maximum amount you can request from us is € 90,000.

For Category 2 project proposals, co-financing is not required and the project budget proposals should not exceed € 10,000.

**Co-financing explained:** Co-financing means money that you contribute to the project in addition to the funding you request from us. This contribution can come from your own funds or other non-EU sources. Contributions in-kind are not eligible and do not count as cofinancing.

Wherever possible, all Category 1 applicants are encouraged to bring in a **10%** co-financing to their projects.

**Reporting Requirements:** This funding is provided under the European Union's DEAR programme, which includes strict reporting, results monitoring, and documentation requirements.

All subgrantees must submit periodic narrative reports<sup>1</sup> on activities and results, along with supporting documents such as photos, outreach materials. In addition to these, Category 1

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<sup>1</sup> Ranging from every 3 to 6 months, depending on the length of the project.

subgrantees will be required to submit a detailed financial report with supporting documents (e.g. invoices, proofs of payments, timesheets, etc.).

We will provide guidance and support to all subgrantees throughout the reporting process and address any challenges that may arise.

**Visibility Requirements:** All selected projects must acknowledge funding by the European Commission DEAR programme by including the EU logo and written acknowledgement of funding, and adhering to the visibility and communication requirements in all publications, references, documents, news and any other visibility and communication action relating to the project.

## Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding under this Call for Proposals, applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- i) be a legal person (category 1, 2) or an entity without legal personality (category 2 only)
- ii) be non-profit making
- iii) if a legal person, be a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) or an association of CSOs constituted in accordance with the legislation in force in the country
- iv) be established in the European Union
- v) not be a beneficiary of a grant (neither lead, co-applicant, affiliated entity, associates, contractors) in the frame of the European Commission's DEAR programme
- vi) not have had the financial, administrative or operational capacity to compete directly for EU funding under the EC DEAR 2022 CfP EuropeAid/173998/DH/ACT/Multi. This means they were not eligible or able to apply directly to the 2022 DEAR call for proposals.
- vii) adhere to EU due diligence requirements, as listed in the Declaration on exclusion criteria
- viii) declare that they have not received and are not expecting to receive financial support from another project resulting from the EC DEAR 2022 CfP EuropeAid/ 173998/ DH/ ACT/Multi

**Eligible Locations:** The applicants must be based in the below-listed countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

**Eligible Activities:**

- Awareness-raising
- Public engagement
- Campaigning
- Advocacy
- Projects funded are encouraged to include capacity-building (internal/external), networking and organisational development components.

Please ensure that the proposed activities are in line with the overall objectives and campaigning priorities set out in this Call for Proposals.

## Application Process

**Application Deadline:** Project proposals can be submitted in English by **26 January 2026, 18:00 CET (Brussels time)**.

### How to Apply:

1. Complete the following required documents
  - a. [Annex I. Narrative Proposal](#)
  - b. [Annex II. Budget Proposal](#)
  - c. [Declaration on Exclusion Criteria](#)
  - d. [Declaration of Honour](#)
2. Submit the completed application here: <https://wkf.ms/4o1hudg>  
(maximum one application per organisation)

**Application Process Support:** Applicants can send their questions following email address: [fundingfairerfutures@caneurope.org](mailto:fundingfairerfutures@caneurope.org)

**Q&A Session:** CAN Europe will organise a Q&A session, on 7 January 2026 at 11:30-13:00 (CET). Please feel free to join with your questions!

Register in advance: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/juV-MIRhT0iMde1p42TNlg>

### Timeline:

- 24 November 2025: Launch of the Call for Proposal
- 7 January 2026: Q&A session
- 26 January 2026, 18:00 CET (Brussels time): Deadline for submissions
- March 2026: Information about evaluation results and start of contracting process
- From April 2026 onwards: Start of the projects



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## Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Project proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- *Relevance (30%)*
- *Potential Impact (20%)*
- *Coherence of project design (20%)*
- *Capacity and credibility (15%)*
- *Added-value of the funding (15%)*

The Selection Committee will consider adequate representation of selected projects in respect to geographical location and focus areas.

Preliminary results will be communicated to applicants via email. Shortlisted applicants will be subject to a partnership assessment, to evaluate their organisational, operational and financial capacity, and will be required to submit additional documentation as part of this assessment.

	Category 1	Category 2
<b>All applicants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your official registration document</li> <li>• A bank details statement</li> <li>• Your latest financial statements</li> <li>• If you have any, your latest audit report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your official registration document</li> <li>• A bank details statement</li> </ul>
<b>Non registered legal entities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Group representation declaration</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Memorandum of Understanding</a> with your selected fiscal host</li> <li>• A signed <a href="#">Declaration on Exclusion Criteria</a> by your fiscal host</li> </ul>
<p>All applicants will be asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit an organogram or list of key staff/volunteers short profiles</li> <li>• Fill a capacity assessment and a survey on your organisational needs and inclusivity practice.</li> </ul>		



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The Selection Committee may engage in a process of mutual communication with the shortlisted applicants to discuss potential adjustments or improvements to their proposals. Applicants will then have the opportunity to refine and resubmit their proposals based on this dialogue.

All applicants will be informed individually via email about the results of the selection process.

Once the reviewing and assessment process is completed successfully, selected applicants will be invited to sign the following grant agreement with CAN Europe:

- [Model Subgrant Agreement](#)
- Annex I Narrative Application
- Annex II Budget application
- [Annex III General Conditions](#)
- [Annex IV Template Narrative report](#)
- [Annex V Template Budget report \(only for Category 1\)](#)
- [Annex VI EU Communication and Visibility Guidelines](#)

### Other Benefits for subgrantees

We offer a programme designed to build capacity, foster engagement, and provide ongoing support.

- **Capacity building:** We provide capacity building and sharing events, either in-person or online, on topics such as project management, finance, fundraising, comms & campaigning or advocacy. Our goal is to help strengthen your internal policies and practices, enhance organisational and project delivery capacity, and share useful resources.
- **Network Weaving and Collaboration:** You will have the opportunity to participate in events designed to foster value exchanges and build meaningful relationships with diverse NGOs, decision-makers and movements across Europe.
- **Visibility, Communication and Campaigning:** Your organisation will benefit from added visibility and recognition through our channels and online repository. You are also welcome to engage in our campaigns, develop your own actions and share impactful stories.

### Further information

For any questions, please contact [fundingfairerfutures@caneurope.org](mailto:fundingfairerfutures@caneurope.org).

If you would like to stay updated on upcoming news related to the Funding Fairer Futures project, sign up to our [mailing list](#).



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